

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Public Notice of Regulatory Impact Report for
10 CSR 20-7.031, Water Quality Standards
November 23, 2012 – January 22, 2013

The Department has published a Regulatory Impact Report (RIR) seeking comments regarding revisions to 10 CSR 20-7.031 Water Quality Standards. A RIR is required at the beginning of the rulemaking process for rulemakings involving environmental standards or conditions. The RIR documents the environmental benefits and economic costs associated with the upcoming rulemaking. The department plans to propose an amendment to water quality standards. These revisions are necessary to ensure state water quality standards are functionally equivalent to federal standards and to improve the clarity, specificity and effectiveness of the standards.

There are a number of reasons that this rule is being revised. The rule will 1) apply default “fishable/swimmable” uses to more waters as required by Section 101(a) of the federal Clean Water Act, 2) revise use designation definitions to establish a framework for tiered aquatic habitat protection and provide additional clarity, 3) revise recreational use designations as a result of Use Attainability Analyses, 4) restore use designations for specific water body segments, 6) update reference to Missouri’s Antidegradation Implementation Procedure in rule, 7) revise the delineation and mileage of Dry Fork Creek in Maries County, 8) revise definitions for wetlands, update reference to wetland delineation manuals in rule and apply specific numeric criteria to wetlands, and 9) revise the delineation and mileages of specific water body segments in rule.

The department is providing a 60-day open comment period for public review and comment on the RIR, November 23, 2012 through January 22, 2013. An open public comment period on the proposed rule amendment will also be provided during the rulemaking process.

The RIR can be accessed on the Water Protection Rule Development Web site at www.dnr.mo.gov/env/wpp/rules/wpp-rule-dev.htm. Written comments regarding the RIR will be accepted through 5 p.m. on Tuesday, January 22, 2013. Comments should be addressed to John Hoke. Contact information in your e-mails should include your name, e-mail address and phone number. Comments on the RIR and copies of the RIR document may be requested by calling (573) 751-1300, by mail at Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Water Protection Program, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176, Attn: John Hoke, or by e-mail at john.hoke@dnr.mo.gov.